



Summary of Natural Hazard Statistics for 2015 in the United States



This National Weather Service (NWS) report summarizes fatalities, injuries and damages caused by severe weather in 2015. The NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services and the National Climatic Data Center compiled this Summary of U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics from Storm Data, a report comprising statistics from NWS forecast offices in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Summary of 2015 Weather Events, Fatalities, Injuries, and Damage Costs

Weather Event	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage (million \$)	Crop Damage (million \$)	Total Damage (million \$)
Convection					
Lightning	27	130	16.31	0.00	16.31
Tornado	36	924	316.78	3.64	320.42
Thunderstorm Wind	41	159	251.99	15.79	267.79
Hail	0	0	586.02	132.97	718.99
Extreme Temperatures					
Cold	53	3	2.84	0.00	2.84
Heat	45	640	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flood					
Flash Flood	129	42	1,827.60	296.82	2,124.41
River Flood	47	8	449.80	174.31	624.10
Marine					
Coastal Storm	0	1	15.89	0.10	15.99
Tsunami	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rip Current	56	54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tropical Cyclones					
Tropical Storm / Hurricane	14	50	41.46	10.51	51.97
Winter					
Winter Storm	20	17	530.19	0.00	530.19
Ice	0	0	59.43	0.00	59.43
Avalanche	8	5	0.00	0.00	0.00

Other					
Drought	0	0	0.09	10.67	10.76
Dust Storm	2	15	0.03	0.00	0.03
Dust Devil	0	4	0.04	0.00	0.04
Rain	8	1	11.37	0.00	11.37
Fog	0	0	0.17	0.00	0.17
High Wind	24	62	65.47	0.24	65.71
Waterspout	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fire Weather	7	25	22.90	0.05	22.94
Mud Slide	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Volcanic Ash	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0	2	0.10	0.00	0.10
Total	517	2142	4,198.46	645.10	4,843.57

Summary of 2015 Natural Hazard Statistics

Weather-related deaths rose in 2015 from 333 in 2014 to 517. That number is above the 446 in 2013. The 2015 number is still slightly below the 10-year average (2005-2014) of 541 deaths. Flooding replaced rip currents as the most deadly hazard in 2015, claiming 176 victims, up significantly from 38 deaths in 2014. Rip Currents were still a major threat, claiming 56 lives, down only 1, from 57 in 2014. Thunderstorm winds and high winds were the next most deadly weather events, claiming 65 lives, up from 54 in 2014, followed by extreme cold with 53 and extreme heat, with 45.

Of the 2015 weather-related deaths, males, as usual, accounted for more deaths, 347 (66%), than females, 165 (32%). This gender breakdown is typical. In most years, there are almost twice as many male victims of extreme weather as female, a pattern likely reflecting the higher percentage of men who hold outdoor jobs such as construction and who take part in sports and other outside activities such as fishing and boating. In 2015, males were more likely to be victims in all age ranges except children 0-9, which tragically numbered 35 deaths, and the 80+ category, where the percentage of women who reach this age range exceeds that of men.

Which were the deadliest months in 2015? For a second year, it was not the typical summer months, but May with 85 victims and December with 76.

In 2015, weather related injuries and illnesses numbered 2,142 down slightly from the 2014 total of 2,187 and more significantly from the 2013 total of 2,766. Tornadoes caused by the far the most injuries with 924, heat causing 640, and thunderstorm and high winds causing 221 injuries.

Which state had the most dangerous weather in 2015? Texas, with 86 casualties, took that dubious honor from Washington, which numbered 50 weather-related fatalities in 2014. A large number of the Texas deaths were due to flooding, which claimed 48 victims. Illinois and Florida were the next hardest hit with 32 and 28 deaths each. Arkansas fatalities were for a variety of hazards, Illinois biggest threat was flooding which claimed 15 victims.

For the second consecutive year, total weather-related damages in 2015 were just about two-thirds of the previous year's total. Extreme weather caused approximately \$4.84 billion, down from \$7.60 billion in combined property and crop damages in 2014, and down even more significantly from the 2013 total of \$12.7 billion. Property damages were estimated at \$4.20 billion down from \$5.43 billion in 2014 and \$8.80 billion in 2013. The most costly weather culprit for property owners again flash floods, which caused \$1.8 billion in damages, followed again by hail (\$586 million) and winter storms, (\$530 million). Crop damages in 2015 totaled about \$645 million down significantly from the 2014 total of \$2.2 billion. In a switch, flash flooding caused the most crop damage, accounting for \$297 million. In 2014 drought was the biggest threat, causing \$1.5 billion in losses, hitting California the hardest.

2015 Summary of Fatalities for All Hazards by Age and Gender

	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
0 to 9	18	16	1	35	6.70
10 to 19	12	34	1	47	9.00
20 to 29	14	49	0	63	12.07
30 to 39	18	42	0	60	11.49
40 to 49	17	43	0	60	11.49
50 to 59	20	48	0	68	13.03
60 to 69	27	40	0	67	12.84
70 to 79	17	20	0	37	7.09
80 to 89	18	16	0	34	6.51
90 to --	3	2	0	5	0.96
Unknown	1	37	8	46	8.81
Total	165	347	10	522	
Percent	31.61	66.48	1.92		

2015 Monthly Weather Related Fatalities

